

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of my dear friend, and fellow WSU alumnus, Mr. Gary Petersen.

Following his graduation in 1965, Gary began a distinguished career on behalf of our country and notable Washington institutions, such as the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Hanford, Energy Northwest, the State Department, and, recently, as vice president of the Tri-City Development Council.

For 5 decades, Gary has been a devoted advocate for the Tri-Cities, and his efforts have been critical to the area's growth and development. He is also an unwavering proponent of PNNL and the defense nuclear waste cleanup mission at Hanford. In Congress, Gary has provided me with critical counsel, while generously serving on my Hanford Working Group.

His integrity and distinguished career were recognized with his 2013 induction into WSU's Murrow Alumni Hall of Achievement.

I am honored to call Gary a friend, and will be forever grateful for his patriotism and dedicated service to the Tri-Cities and our great Nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BOB OLIVER

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I have the personal pleasure and honor of saying a few words about a leader in our community who has dedicated his life to the betterment of others.

Bob Oliver is the president and CEO of Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., which is a healthcare company based in my district in Princeton, New Jersey. Bob's strategic leadership over the last 7 years has been instrumental in developing a diverse portfolio of marketed products, specifically focusing on neuroscience, cardio-renal, and oncology. He is personally passionate about helping others and those who care for them.

He has worked for over 40 years helping others navigate the healthcare system more easily and has publicly addressed mental health stigma, disparity in healthcare treatment, and the future of health care using technology advancements. He has worked closely with local advocacy groups to aid veterans and other individuals struggling with homelessness, mental illness, addiction, and poverty.

In addition to being a community partner, through his leadership role at Otsuka, he has been instrumental in driving economic growth in the pharmaceutical sector, as well as creating job opportunities in my State.

Most recently, he was featured as one of Ebony Magazine's Power 100, an esteemed panelist with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, and a featured leader in

Forbes Magazine. The journey is just beginning as he closes this chapter in Otsuka and proceeds to move forward in his life.

He has made us very proud. We are proud to take this moment to address his accomplishments and to thank him for his lifetime of achievement. We wish him the best of luck and God-speed.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BILL COOPER

(Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Bill Cooper. Bill was a leader, innovator, philanthropist, and a friend, and he lived the American Dream.

He grew up in Detroit, where he worked as a police officer while earning a degree in accounting. His career in banking brought him to Minnesota in 1985, when he became CEO of Twin Cities Federal. He transformed this small savings and loan into a thriving national bank.

Bill worked to ensure that all children also had access to a quality education by founding the Friends of Education, which sponsors 15 schools and serves more than 9,000 children.

Bill was a defining force as well in Minnesota politics. He always stood up for conservative principles and served as chairman of the State Republican Party from 1997 to 1999.

Bill Cooper left his mark on Minnesota, and he will be deeply missed by all of us who knew him.

ALL PERPETRATORS OF CHILD ABUSE MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing important legislation to ensure that all perpetrators of child abuse are held accountable. It closes a Federal loophole that wrongly denies justice for some survivors, like Penny Saum from Washington State.

Last month, I heard from Penny directly about the horrific abuses she faced at the hands of her father. He was convicted, sentenced to prison, and ordered to pay \$5 million in damages. But because he is a military retiree, Federal law has shielded him from paying a cent of the restitution that he owes. It is unacceptable.

Congress already passed a law in 1994, holding Federal retirees accountable for abusing a child. Now it is our responsibility to apply the same standard to all perpetrators.

I am honored to be working with my colleague from Washington State, Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER, to

close this heartbreaking loophole. In these challenging times, this is exactly the kind of bipartisan solution we can all work together on.

RARE DISEASES ARE NOT A RARE PROBLEM

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 30 million Americans affected by a rare disease. An astounding 95 percent of rare diseases have no approved treatments or cures. My bill, the OPEN Act, seeks to change that.

The OPEN Act provides incentives for drug makers to repurpose major market treatments for rare disease patients. It could open the door for a surge in biotechnology jobs and investment. Most importantly, the OPEN Act would help make sure those suffering from a rare condition can finally find safe, effective, affordable medication.

I was inspired to write the OPEN Act after meeting with folks who live with rare diseases, like Ashleigh Pike, Candace Lerman, and Kelly Freeman from Florida. The ideas that shaped this legislation came from those who it will help most, rare disease patients. After all, rare diseases are not a rare problem.

The OPEN Act has the potential to bring hope to millions of patients and their families.

NEW MARKET TAX CREDITS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the new market tax credits have helped inject new economic viability into my western New York community. The program continues to help revitalize economically distressed cities throughout America; in western New York, more than \$300 million in private investment in the past decade that would not have occurred without the tax credit program.

Historically and architecturally significant buildings like the Electric Tower and Asbury Hall in downtown Buffalo are buzzing with new residential and commercial life. Most recently, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Nation's first cancer center, opened their new clinical sciences building with the help of the new market tax credit program.

I urge my colleagues to support my legislation to make the new market tax credits permanent.

OBAMACARE IS FAILING PATIENTS

(Mr. BUCSHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)